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⑳ **Calcium-supplemented beverages and beverage concentrates containing low levels of sulfate.**

㉑ Beverages and beverage concentrates nutritionally supplemented with significant levels of solubilized calcium and containing low levels of sulfate, preferably in combination with low levels of chloride, are disclosed. These beverages and concentrates also contain specified levels of one or more acids selected from phosphoric acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, adipic acid, gluconic acid, and tartaric acid, as well as mixtures of these acids. The particular acid systems are selected to provide the desired flavor and sourness character for the beverages and concentrates. Inclusion of low levels of sulfate/chloride in these beverages and concentrates provides a quicker onset of sourness, prevents or reduces aftertaste effects and improves the solubility of the calcium, particularly when high levels of phosphoric acid or citric acid are used. Inclusion of sulfate/chloride also prevents or reduces the precipitation and deposition of calcium salts on equipment surfaces during the pasteurization or sterilization of calcium-containing fruit juice beverages.

EP 0 301 653 A1

CALCIUM-SUPPLEMENTED BEVERAGES AND BEVERAGE CONCENTRATES CONTAINING LOW LEVELS OF SULFATE

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 This application relates to beverages and beverage concentrates for preparing same which are nutritionally supplemented with significant levels of calcium. This application particularly relates to calcium-supplemented beverages and beverage concentrates which contain low levels of sulfate, preferably in combination with low levels of chloride.

10 Dietary calcium inadequacy may be a contributing cause to osteoporosis, at least for some populations. For example, a positive correlation between calcium intake and bone mass has been found across many age groups. It has also been suggested that the level of calcium intake early in life directly influences the peak bone mass achieved at skeletal maturity.

During the period of late teenage to young adulthood, it has been found that a significant reduction in dietary calcium intake typically occurs. This is especially true of the female population where reduced dietary calcium intake usually happens much earlier in life compared to their male counterparts. Accordingly, females, as a class, are especially susceptible to a prolonged calcium deficit over their life span. This calcium deficit may be one reason for the greater incidence of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.

15 Calcium can be obtained from a variety of dietary sources. The primary sources of calcium are dairy products, in particular milk. Milk provides a very valuable source of dietary calcium. However, beginning in young adulthood and continuing through later life, milk is typically not consumed in sufficient quantities by the general population to obtain needed levels of calcium. This may be caused by the unattractiveness of milk as a drink for "social occasions." Indeed, it has been found that teenage girls, and especially young adult women, generally find milk to be a socially unattractive drink, as well as too caloric and unappealing in taste.

25 To achieve greater consumption of calcium, a more appealing alternative to milk is apparently needed. This alternative must be one which is consumed in sufficient quantities to provide nutritionally beneficial amounts of calcium. Products which are consumed in great quantities by teenagers and young adults are carbonated soft drinks. Unlike milk, soft drinks can be formulated with a variety of flavors generated by natural flavor oils, flavor extracts and synthetically derived flavor materials, which may be the reason why soft drinks are very attractive to this particular group. Beverages which are consumed often by the general public, especially at breakfast, are fruit juice products, particularly orange juice. Like milk, orange juice has a wholesome, nutritional image, but is generally considered to have a more appealing taste. Accordingly, soft drinks or fruit juice products nutritionally supplemented with calcium could be viewed as potential vehicles for achieving greater dietary calcium intake during this critical teenage/young adult period, and throughout life as well.

35 Nutritional supplementation of soft drinks, or other non-milk beverages like fruit juice, with significant levels of calcium is not straight forward. Milk contains, on average, about 0.12% calcium by weight. Inclusion of such a high level of calcium in a soft drink or other non-milk beverage requires consideration of a number of issues.

40 One is making sure that the calcium supplemented drink has desirable taste and mouthfeel qualities. It has been found that high levels of calcium can impart significant "chalky" mouthfeel sensations to a soft drink. This has been found to be especially true for soft drinks based on high levels of citric acid as the acidulant. In addition, it has been found that high levels of calcium can cause undesirable "biting/burning" mouthfeel sensations long after the soft drink is consumed. This "aftertaste" problem is especially true of soft drinks based on high levels of phosphoric acid as the acidulant.

45 Another factor which must be considered is the sourness impression of the soft drink. Calcium-containing soft drinks based on high levels of edible acids such as citric acid or phosphoric acid typically have a slower, more lingering onset of sourness. This is due to the ability of these acids to buffer the soft drink to a relatively high, though acidic pH. A quicker onset of sourness is usually desirable for certain soft drinks, in particular those having a cola-type flavor.

50 Another potential issue is precipitation of insoluble calcium salts such as calcium citrate and calcium phosphate. Stability against precipitation is a very significant problem for beverage concentrates used to

prepare soft drinks or other non-milk beverages like fruit juice because of the very high levels of calcium salts present. However, at even moderate concentrations in drinks and beverages, stability against precipitation of insoluble calcium salts can be important, especially on equipment surfaces during pasteurization or sterilization of calcium-containing fruit juice beverages.

5

BACKGROUND ART

10 U.S. Patent 4,325,975 to Lindon et al, issued April 20, 1981, discloses mineralized drinking water formulations consisting essentially of strontium ions (20-40 milligrams per liter), magnesium ions (50-100 milligrams per liter), calcium ions (60-125 milligrams per liter), and potassium ions (0.06 to 0.15 milligrams per liter). These ions are added to distilled water in the form of water-soluble salts such as the sulfates, nitrates or chlorides.

15 U.S. Patent 4,448,770 to Epting, issued May 15, 1984, discloses a dietetic beverage containing, per gallon, 30 to 50 milliequivalents of potassium ion, 5 to 10 milliequivalents of calcium ion, 1 to 3 milliequivalents of magnesium ion, and 5 to 10 ounces of sucrose. Suitable potassium salts include the sulfate, citrate, and preferably chloride salts. Suitable calcium salts include the chloride and preferably gluconate salts. The magnesium ion is preferably supplied as the magnesium chloride salt.

20 U.S. Patent 4,322,407 to Ko, issued March 30, 1982, discloses an electrolyte drink containing sodium, potassium, magnesium, chloride, sulfate, phosphate, citrate, sucrose, dextrose, ascorbic acid and pyridoxine.

U.S. Patent 4,384,005 to McSweeney, issued May 17, 1983, discloses compressed tablets which rapidly dissolve in water. These tablets can be used in beverage preparation. One such tablet (Example 4) is prepared from citric acid (580 grams), malic acid (70 grams), an aqueous moistener (56 grams), corn syrup solids (55 grams), dextrin (25 grams), and calcium sulfate (20 grams).

U.S. Patent 2,297,599 to Wilen, issued September 29, 1942, discloses effervescent tablets consisting of an effervescent core and an outer layer containing a therapeutic agent together with an effervescent base. One such effervescent alkalizing tablet contains calcium gluconate, sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate, magnesium sulfate, sodium chloride and an effervescent base of sodium bicarbonate, citric acid and tartaric acid.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

35

The present invention relates to beverages, and beverage concentrates for preparing same, which are nutritionally supplemented with significant levels of calcium. The beverages of the present invention comprise:

- 40 (a) from about 0.05 to about 0.15% by weight solubilized calcium;
- (b) from about 0.07 to about 1% by weight of an edible acid component;
- (c) from about 0.02 to about 0.14% by weight sulfate;
- (d) up to about 0.05% by weight chloride;
- (e) the amount of sulfate and chloride combined being up to about 0.14% by weight;
- 45 (f) an effective amount of a flavor component; and
- (g) an effective amount of a sweetener.

For the beverage concentrates of the present invention, the level of solubilized calcium is from about 0.15 to about 0.75% by weight, the level of the acid component is from about 0.2 to about 5% by weight, the level of sulfate is from about 0.06 to about 0.7% by weight, the level of chloride is up to about 0.25% by weight and the level of sulfate and chloride combined up to about 0.25% by weight.

50 The present invention further relates to fruit juice beverages which are nutritionally supplemented with significant levels of calcium. These fruit juice beverages comprise:

- (a) from about 0.05 to about 0.26% by weight solubilized calcium;
- (b) from about 0.4 to about 4% by weight of an edible acid component;
- 55 (c) from about 0.02 to about 0.1% by weight sulfate;
- (d) up to about 0.07% by weight chloride;
- (e) the amount of sulfate and chloride combined being up to about 0.12% by weight;
- (f) at least about 45% fruit juice; and

(g) a sugar content of from about 2 to about 16° Brix.

For fruit juice concentrates of the present invention, the level of solubilized calcium is from about 0.15 to about 1.30% by weight, the level of the acid component is from about 1.2 to about 20% by weight, the level of sulfate is from about 0.06 to about 0.5% by weight, the level of chloride is up to about 0.35% by weight, the level of sulfate and chloride combined is up to about 0.6% by weight, and the sugar content is from about 6 to about 75° Brix.

The fruit juice and other beverages of the present invention contain significant levels of nutritionally beneficial calcium. Inclusion of low levels of sulfate (preferably in combination with low levels of chloride) improves the solubility of calcium in these beverages, and especially concentrates for preparing these beverages, even when they contain high levels of citric acid or phosphoric acid. Certain of these beverages also have a quicker onset of sourness, even when acid systems such as citric acid or phosphoric acid are used, as well as reduced aftertaste. In addition, the sulfate/chloride complex prevents the precipitation and depositing of calcium salts on equipment surfaces during pasteurization or sterilization of calcium-containing fruit juice beverages.

A. Definitions

As used herein, the term "beverage" refers to a beverage composition which is in a single-strength, ready-to-serve, drinkable form. Beverages of the present invention typically comprise at least 80% (preferably at least 85%) water. Beverages contemplated within the scope of the present invention include both carbonated and noncarbonated forms.

As used herein, the term "beverage concentrate" refers to a beverage composition in liquid form used to prepare a drinkable beverage. Sugar-sweetened beverage concentrates within the scope of the present invention typically comprise from 30 to 70% (preferably from 40 to 60%) water. They are usually formulated to provide drinkable beverages when diluted with 2 to 4 parts by weight water.

As used herein, the term "beverage syrup" refers to a beverage concentrate which further comprises sugar. Beverage syrups typically comprise from 30 to 70% by weight sugar.

As used herein, the term "fruit juice product" refers to both fruit juice beverages and fruit juice concentrates which comprise at least about 45% fruit juice.

As used herein, the term "fruit juice beverage" refers to a fruit juice product which is in a single-strength, ready-to-serve, drinkable form. Fruit juice beverages of the present invention can be of the "full-strength" type which typically comprise at least about 95% fruit juice.

Fruit juice beverages within the scope of the present invention also include extended juice products which are referred to as "nectars." These extended juice products typically comprise from about 50 to about 90% fruit juice. Preferred extended juice products comprise from about 50 to about 70% fruit juice.

As used herein, the term "fruit juice concentrate" refers to a fruit juice product which, when diluted with appropriate amount of water, forms drinkable fruit juice beverages. Fruit juice concentrates within the scope of the present invention are typically formulated to provide drinkable beverages when diluted with 2 to 4 parts by weight water.

As used herein, the term "concentrated fruit juice" refers to fruit juice from which a portion of the water has been removed.

As used herein, the term "fruit juice materials" refers to concentrated fruit juice, plus other fruit juice materials such as fruit juice aroma and flavor volatiles, peel oils, and pulp or pomace.

As used herein, the term "fruit juice" refers to citrus juices, noncitrus juices such as apple juice, grape juice, pear juice, cherry juice, berry juice, pineapple juice, peach juice, apricot juice, plum juice, prune juice, passion fruit juice, banana juice, and mixtures of these juices.

As used herein, the term "citrus juice" refers to fruit juices selected from orange juice, lemon juice, lime juice, grapefruit juice, tangerine juice and mixtures thereof.

As used herein, the term "comprising" means various components can be conjointly employed in the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention. Accordingly, the term "comprising" encompasses the more restrictive terms "consisting essentially of" and "consisting of."

All amounts of fruit juice referred to herein are on a single-strength basis.

B. Calcium Levels, Acid Systems and Sulfate/Chloride Levels

The key nutritional component of the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention is calcium. Suitable sources of calcium include calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, calcium chloride, calcium phosphat, calcium hydrogen-phosphate and calcium dihydrogen phosphate, calcium hydroxide, as well as the respective sour salts of calcium, e.g., calcium citrate, calcium malate, calcium gluconate or calcium lactate. Mixtures of calcium carbonate (or calcium hydroxide) and calcium sulfate, which optionally and preferably include calcium chloride and/or calcium gluconate, are particularly preferred calcium sources. To be useful in the present invention, the calcium needs to be "solubilized", i.e., dissolved or suspended, in the beverage or beverage concentrate. Accordingly, the amount of calcium included in the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention will be referred to in terms of "solubilized calcium", i.e., the amount of calcium ion dissolved or suspended.

For beverages of the present invention, calcium is present in an amount of at least 0.05% by weight. This minimum level of calcium (about half of milk level) provides significant nutritional supplementation for the beverage. The maximum level of calcium is up to 0.26% by weight for fruit juice beverages and typically up to about 0.15% for other beverages. As the level of calcium in fruit juice beverages is increased much beyond 0.26% by weight (beyond 0.15% by weight for other beverages), satisfactory taste and stability properties become much more difficult to achieve. Preferably, the level of calcium in fruit juice beverages is from about 0.10 to 0.20% by weight which includes the minimum level, i.e., 0.12% by weight, and from about 0.055 to about 0.09% by weight for other beverages.

With regard to fruit juice concentrates used to prepare fruit beverages of the present invention, the amount of calcium present is from about 0.15% to about 1.0% by weight. For other beverage concentrates, the amount of calcium present is typically from about 0.05% to about 0.75% by weight. Typically, beverages of the present invention are prepared from 3-fold to 5-fold (5X) beverage concentrates. Accordingly, the level of solubilized calcium is preferably in the range of from about 0.3 to about 1% by weight for fruit juice concentrates and from about 0.16 to about 0.45% by weight for other beverage concentrates.

A key component for drinkable beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention from the standpoint of stability against precipitation of insoluble calcium and taste/mouthfeel/aftertaste quality and desirable onset of sourness is the edible acid component (added acids or from juice). This acid component comprises one or more edible acids, which can include phosphoric acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, adipic acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid or mixtures thereof. These acids can be present in their undisassociated form or else as the respective sour salts, i.e. phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate, citrate, malate, tartrate, gluconate and lactate. Particularly preferred edible acid systems comprise phosphoric acid, citric acid, malic acid, gluconic acid or combinations thereof.

For the purposes of the present invention, the level of edible acid component (hereafter total acids) depends on the beverage composition involved, the level of solubilized calcium included, as well as the mouthfeel, taste and stability properties desired. For fruit juice beverages having from about 0.10 to about 0.20% by weight solubilized calcium, the level of total acids can range from about 0.4 to about 4% by weight. (For fruit juice concentrates used to prepare such beverages, the level of total acids can range from about 1.2 to about 20% by weight). For other beverages having from about 0.055 to about 0.15% by weight solubilized calcium, the level of total acids can range from about 0.05 to about 1% by weight. (For beverage concentrates used to prepare such beverages, the level of total acids can range from about 0.2 to about 5% by weight.) For preferred fruit beverages having from about 0.10 to about 0.20% by weight solubilized calcium, the level of total acids preferably ranges from 0.6 to 2% by weight (from about 1.8 to about 10% by weight for fruit juice concentrates used to prepare these fruit juice beverages). For other preferred beverages having from about 0.055 to about 0.09% by weight solubilized calcium, the level of total acids preferably ranges from 0.1 to 0.6% by weight (from about 0.3 to about 3% by weight for beverage concentrates used to prepare these beverages).

An important component for the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention is the level of sulfate present. Inclusion of low levels of sulfate (or chloride) in beverages of the present invention has been found to be especially beneficial. On is to cause a quicker onset of sourness in certain beverages. This is believed to be due to a reduction in the buffering capacity of the edible acids present. (Chloride is also believed to aid the quicker onset of sourness due to a taste mechanism interaction.) Another important effect is improving the solubility of calcium in the beverage/ concentrate, even where high levels of citric or phosphoric acid are used. This is also believed to be due to a reduction in the buffering capacity of the edible acids present. Another benefit

is a reduction in aftertaste effects, particularly the "biting/burning" aftertaste associated with calcium-fortified beverages containing phosphoric acid. This aftertaste is believed to be due to delayed precipitation of calcium phosphate in the mouth. The reduction in aftertaste due to sulfate/chloride inclusion is believed to be the result of reduced calcium-phosphate interactions due to the change in pH.

For fruit juice beverages having from about 0.05 to about 0.26% by weight solubilized calcium, the level of sulfate can range from about 0.02 to about 0.1% by weight, while the level of chloride can range up to about 0.07% by weight. (For fruit juice concentrates used to prepare these beverages, the level of sulfate can range from about 0.06 to about 0.5% by weight, while the level of chloride can range up to about 0.35% by weight.) For other beverages having from about 0.05 to about 0.15% by weight solubilized calcium, the level of sulfate can range from about 0.02 to about 0.14% by weight, while the level of chloride can range up to about 0.05%. (For beverage concentrates used to prepare these other beverages, the level of sulfate can range from about 0.06 to about 0.7% by weight, while the level of chloride can range up to about 0.25% by weight.) At sulfate levels much above 0.10% by weight or chloride levels much above 0.07% by weight, in juice beverages (above 0.14% by weight or 0.25% by weight, respectively, in other beverages), the sulfate and chloride concentrations are sufficiently high to cause a noticeable salty/brackish aftertaste which is considered undesirable. At sulfate levels much below 0.02% by weight, the effect of sulfate on sourness, aftertaste and improved solubility of calcium is significantly diminished. In addition, the amount of sulfate and chloride combined should be no more than about 0.12% by weight for fruit juice beverages of the present invention, and no more than about 0.6% by weight for fruit juice concentrates. For other beverages, the combined amount of sulfate and chloride should be no more than about 0.14% by weight (preferably no more than about 0.10% by weight), and no more than about 0.7% by weight (preferably no more than 0.5% by weight) for beverage concentrates used to prepare these beverages.

Sources of sulfate and chloride for inclusion in beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention can be from sulfuric acid or hydrochloric acid, or salts such as calcium sulfate and calcium chloride. Preferably, the sulfate and chloride are derived from calcium sulfate and calcium chloride, which also serve as at least partial sources of calcium. Calcium sulfate and calcium chloride combined can supply from about 3.2 to 100% by weight of the solubilized calcium for fruit juice beverages/concentrates and from about 5.6 to 100% by weight of the solubilized calcium for other beverages/concentrates. Preferably, calcium sulfate and calcium chloride combined supply from about 40 to about 60% of the solubilized calcium present in fruit juice beverages/concentrates and from about 9 to 89% of the solubilized calcium present in other beverages/concentrates.

C. Other Components of Beverages and Beverage Concentrates

1. Fruit Juice Beverages and Juice Concentrates

The fruit juice beverages and juice concentrates of the present invention also contain the sugars normally present in fruit juice products. These sugars include sucrose, glucose, invert sugar, and mixtures thereof. The amount of sugar normally present in fruit juices is usually sufficient for the calcium-supplemented fruit juice beverages and concentrates of the present invention. However, in the case of extended juice products, sugar is usually added, usually in the form of sucrose or high fructose corn syrup.

In addition to sugar, extended fruit juice beverages of the present invention can contain other sweeteners. Other suitable sweeteners include saccharin, cyclamate, phenylalanine lower alkyl ester sweeteners (e.g. aspartame), L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine amides disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,411,925 to Brennan et al. issued October 23, 1983 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-L-serine amides disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,399,163 to Brennan et al. issued August 16, 1983 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-L-1-hydroxymethylalkaneamides disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,338,346 to Brand, issued December 21, 1982 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-1-hydroxyethylalkaneamide sweeteners disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,423,029 to Brand, issued Dec. 27, 1983 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-D-phenylglycine ester and amides disclosed in U.S. Patent Application 168,112 to J. M. Janusz, published January 15, 1986 (herein incorporated by reference), and the like. A particularly preferred sweetener for use in such extended juice products is aspartame.

For single-strength fruit juice beverages, the sugar content can range from about 2 to about 16° Brix. Typically, the sugar content of such beverages depends upon the amount of fruit juice contained therein.

For full-strength beverages containing at least about 95% fruit juice, the sugar content is typically from about 5 to about 14° Brix. For extended juice beverages which comprise from about 50 to about 90% fruit juice, the sugar content is typically from about 5 to about 13° Brix (other sweetener) or from about 2 to about 8° Brix (other sweetener containing).

5 For fruit juice concentrates according to the present invention, the sugar content can range from about 6 to about 75° Brix. Typically, the sugar content of these juice concentrates is from about 20 to about 50° Brix. For orange juice concentrates, the sugar content is preferably from about 35° to about 50° Brix.

The fruit juice beverages and juice concentrates of the present invention are typically substantially free of added protein. Examples of such proteins include soy protein, whey protein concentrate, and the like. 10 These proteins can react with fruit juice aromas and flavors. If hydrolyzed, can form short-chain peptides or amino acids which have undesirable bitter flavors. In fruit juice beverages of the present invention, the amount of added protein is generally no more than about 0.1% by weight. Preferably, these beverages and concentrates contain no added protein.

Other optional ingredients typically present in fruit juice products can be included in the beverages and concentrates of the present invention. For example, preservatives, vitamins and other minerals can be included. Suitable vitamins include A, D, E, C (ascorbic acid), B₁ (thiamin), B₂ (riboflavin), B₆, B₁₂, niacin, folic acid and biotin. Other minerals besides calcium which can be included are iron, zinc, potassium, magnesium, manganese and copper. If desired, natural and synthetic flavorings and colorings can be included in these beverages and concentrates.

20

2. Other Beverages and Beverage Concentrates

25

a. Flavor Component

Other beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention typically comprise a flavor component which contains a flavor selected from fruit flavors, botanical flavors and mixtures thereof. As 30 used herein, the term "fruit flavor" refers to those flavors derived from the edible reproductive part of a seed plant, especially one having a sweet pulp associated with the seed. Also included within the term "fruit flavor" are synthetically prepared flavors made to simulate fruit flavors derived from natural sources. Particularly preferred fruit flavors are the citrus flavors including orange flavors, lemon flavors, lime flavors and grapefruit flavors. Besides citrus flavors, a variety of other fruit flavors can be used such as apple 35 flavors, grape flavors, cherry flavors, pineapple flavors and the like. These fruit flavors can be derived from natural sources such as fruit juices and flavor oils, or else synthetically prepared.

As used herein, the term "botanical flavor" refers to flavors derived from parts of a plant other than the fruit. As such, botanical flavors can include those flavors derived from nuts, bark, roots and leaves. Also included within the term "botanical flavor" are synthetically prepared flavors made to simulate botanical 40 flavors derived from natural sources. Examples of such flavors include kola flavors, tea flavors, and the like. These botanical flavors can be derived from natural sources such as essential oils and extracts, or else can be synthetically prepared.

The flavor component can comprise a blend of various flavors. For example, lemon and lime flavors, kola flavors with citrus flavors to form cola flavors, etc. If desired, fruit juices such as orange juice, lemon juice, lime juice, apple juice, grape juice and the like can be used in the flavor component. The flavors in the flavor component are sometimes formed into emulsion droplets which are then dispersed in the beverage. Because these droplets usually have a specific density, they therefore form a separate phase, weighting agents (which can be used to keep the emulsion droplets dispersed in the beverage) 45 such as brominated vegetable oils (BVO) and rosin esters, in part incorporated by reference), for a further description of the use of weighting agents in liquid beverages. Besides weighting agents, emulsifiers and emulsifying agents can be used to stabilize the emulsion droplets. Examples of such emulsifiers and emulsifying agents include celluloses, polysorbates, sorbitan esters and propylene glycol esters. See L. F. Green, *supra* at p. 92. 50

The particular amount of the flavor component effective in imparting flavor characteristics to the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention (the "flavor enhancing") can depend upon the flavor(s) selected, the flavor impression desired, and the amount of the flavor component. For flavor

components which are substantially free of fruit juice, i.e., on a single strength basis, no more than about 1% fruit juice by weight of the beverage, the flavor component comprises at least about 0.05% by weight of the beverage composition, and typically from about 0.1 to about 2% by weight for carbonated beverages. When fruit juices are used, the flavor component can comprise, on a single strength basis, up to about 40% fruit juice by weight of the beverage, preferably from about 15% to about 30% fruit juice by weight for carbonated beverages.

b. Sweeteners

Beverages and beverage syrups of the present invention contain a sweetener. The sweetener typically used is sugar. As used herein, the term "sugar" refers to mono- and disaccharides. Examples of such sugars include sucrose, glucose, fructose, high fructose corn syrup, invert sugar and the like. Preferred sugars are sucrose and high fructose corn syrup. Sugars have been found to enhance the absorbability/bioavailability of other components from beverages of the present invention.

For diet beverages, noncaloric sweeteners can be used. Examples of such sweeteners include saccharin, cyclamates, acetosulfam, L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine lower ester sweeteners, L-aspartyl-D-alanine amides disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,411,925 to Brennan et al., issued October 23, 1983 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-D-serine amides disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,399,163 to Brennan et al., issued August 16, 1983 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-L-1-hydroxymethylalkaneamide sweeteners disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,338,346 to Brand, issued December 21, 1982 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-1-hydroxyethylalkaneamide sweeteners disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,423,029 to Rizzi, issued December 27, 1983 (herein incorporated by reference), and the like. The acid systems of the present invention can provide improved hydrolytic stability for beverages containing L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine ester (e.g. aspartame) sweeteners in the critical pH range from about 4.0 to about 4.8.

The amount of the sweetener effective in the beverages of the present invention depends upon the particular sweetener(s) used and the sweetness intensity desired. For noncaloric sweeteners, this amount varies depending upon the sweetness intensity of the particular sweetener. For sugar, this amount can be from about 1 to about 14% (typically from about 6 to about 14%) by weight for carbonated beverages. Preferred beverages contain from about 9 to about 13% by weight of sugar. (In determining the amount of sugar for beverages of the present invention, any sugar or other sweetener present in the flavor component, such as in fruit juice, is also included.) Low-calorie sweetener compositions containing a noncaloric sweetener such as aspartame and a sugar such as high fructose corn syrup can also be used in beverages of the present invention. For beverage syrups of the present invention, the amount of sugar is significantly higher. Usually, the amount of sugar in a beverage syrup is from about 30 to about 70% by weight. Preferably, such beverage syrups contain from about 40 to about 60% by weight sugar.

The beverages, beverage concentrates and beverage syrups of the present invention are typically substantially free of a sugar alcohol, i.e. less than about 1% by weight. Sugar alcohols include sorbitol, mannitol and xylitol. Sugar alcohols are sometimes used as sweeteners for food products. However, these sugar alcohols, which are noncaloric, are also metabolized by lower gut flora, causing flatulence and related gastrointestinal (GI) tract problems such as diarrhea. Accordingly, at the levels required to sweeten beverages, sugar alcohols are not particularly useful in the present invention.

c. pH and Other Beverage Ingredients

The pH of other beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention is dependent upon the particular composition of the acid component, the total amount of acid added and the sourness impression desired. Typically, the pH can range from about 2.5 to about 5.0. For carbonated beverages have a pH of from about 2.5 to about 4.5.

Other minor beverage ingredients are frequently included in beverages and concentrates. Such ingredients include preservatives such as benzoic acid and salts thereof, sulfur dioxide, etc. Also, typically included are colors derived either from natural sources, or synthetically prepared. See L. F. Green, Developments in Soft Drinks Technology, Vol. 1 (Applied Science Publishers Ltd. 1978), pp. 185-186 (herein incorporated by reference) for preservatives and colors used in beverages.

D. Preparation of Beverages and Beverage Concentrates

5. 1. Fruit Juice Beverages and Juice Concentrates

Calcium sulfate, and calcium chloride and/or calcium gluconate are used as solubilized calcium for calcium-supplemented fruit juice beverages of the present invention. Other calcium sources, in particular, calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide, and calcium carbonate, are typically used in addition to calcium sulfate, and calcium chloride and/or calcium gluconate. These other calcium sources are preferably included in these fruit juice beverages by the present invention is referred to hereafter as a premix method. The following discussion is with regard to formation of orange juice beverages and juice concentrates of the present invention. However, this method can be used to prepare calcium-supplemented fruit juice products based on other citrus juices such as grapefruit juice, noncitrus juices such as apple juice, as well as mixtures of juices.

In this premix method, an acid component comprising citric acid and/or malic acid is dissolved in the appropriate quantity of water. (If desired, fruit juice or concentrate can be used to supply a portion of the acids). Generally, this acid component comprises from about 10 to 100% by weight citric acid and from about 0 to about 90% by weight malic acid. Preferably, this acid component comprises from about 5 to about 95% by weight citric acid and from about 40 to about 95% by weight malic acid. (This acid component typically comprises from about 5 to about 95% by weight citric acid and from about 50 to about 80% by weight malic acid.) As desired, the acid component can provide optimum flavor character in the juice.

Once the solution containing the dissolved acids is formed, calcium carbonate is then added. The weight ratio of total acids to calcium carbonate is typically from about 0.5 to about 12. Preferably, this weight ratio is from about 1 to about 6.

Addition of calcium carbonate, calcium oxide, or calcium gluconate to the aqueous solution of acids provides a premix containing an at least meta-stable solution of solubilized calcium. This is due to the fact that highly soluble calcium citrate and malate species such as calcium citrate, $\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{citrate})_2$, and CaHmalate are formed in the solution due to the reaction between the acids and the calcium source. Without added stabilizers, the highly soluble calcium citrate species are stable for about a few hours. After this short period of time, the highly soluble calcium citrate species tend to disproportionate to the corresponding acid and the more thermodynamically stable calcium citrate salts, such as $\text{Ca}_3\text{citrate}_2$.

To improve the stability of the calcium malate and especially the calcium citrate species in the premix solution, it is preferred to include a premix stabilizer. Materials which can act as crystallization inhibitors are useful as premix stabilizers. These materials include fructose, high fructose corn syrup, invert sugar, and polysaccharides, xanthan gum, and other edible gums. Concentrated juice polysaccharides are particularly suitable premix stabilizers. For example, high fructose corn syrup (especially for extended juice products) having a sugar content of from about 35 to about 80° Brix whose source is typically corn is a suitable premix stabilizer.

The premix stabilizer can be added immediately after the solution containing the acids. (When calcium carbonate is the calcium source, carbon dioxide evolution is typically allowed to substantially cease before the premix stabilizer is added). However, if desired, the premix stabilizer (especially in the case of sugars and concentrated juice) can be added to the aqueous solution of the acids prior to addition of the calcium source. The amount of premix stabilizer included in the premix solution typically depends upon the stabilizer used. When sugars are used as the premix stabilizer, they are typically added in an amount sufficient to provide a sugar content of from about 2 to about 40° Brix. When polysaccharides are used, the amount can vary widely, typically from about 0.01 to about 10% on a weight/volume basis. When concentrated juice is included in an amount sufficient to provide a sugar content of from about 2 to about 6° Brix.

The premix solution of solubilized calcium is typically prepared in a batch-type fashion, as in the

usually do not supply 100% of the calcium for calcium-supplemented fruit juice beverages of the present invention. Calcium carbonate, calcium oxide, and calcium gluconate, are typically used in addition to calcium sulfate, and calcium chloride and/or calcium gluconate. These other calcium sources are preferably included in these fruit juice beverages by the present invention is referred to hereafter as a premix method. The following discussion is with regard to formation of orange juice beverages and juice concentrates of the present invention. However, this method can be used to prepare calcium-supplemented fruit juice products based on other citrus juices such as grapefruit juice, noncitrus juices such as apple juice, as well as mixtures of juices.

In this premix method, an acid component comprising citric acid and/or malic acid is typically dissolved in the appropriate quantity of water. (If desired, fruit juice or concentrate can be used to supply a portion of the acids). Generally, this acid component comprises from 0 to about 90% by weight citric acid and from about 10 to about 100% by weight malic acid. For orange juice, this acid component typically comprises from about 5 to about 95% by weight citric acid and from about 40 to about 95% by weight malic acid. (This acid component typically comprises from about 5 to about 95% by weight citric acid and from about 50 to about 80% by weight malic acid.) As desired, the acid component can provide optimum flavor character in the juice.

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description above, at room temperature. However, this premix solution can also be prepared in a continuous fashion. In this continuous method, the ingredients (water, acids, sugar source and optional premix stabilizer) are constantly metered together to form the premix solution. The level at which the ingredients are metered is adjusted, as necessary, to insure appropriate solution of the calcium-in-the-premix solution and to provide the appropriate acidity.

The premix solution containing the solubilized calcium is combined in a mix tank with chilled (e.g., below about 40° F (4.4° C)) concentrated orange juice having a sugar content of from about 35 to about 80° Brix (preferably from about 60 to about 70° Brix.), orange juice aroma and flavor volatiles, plus other orange juice materials such as pulp and peel oils, to provide calcium-supplemented orange juice products. The particular proportions of premix solution, concentrated orange juice, aroma and flavor volatiles, pulp and peel oils used will depend upon a number of different factors including the degree of calcium supplementation desired and the type of orange juice product involved (e.g., single-strength juice beverage or juice concentrate). Calcium sulfate, and calcium chloride and/or calcium gluconate, can also be added to the mix tank or else can be included in the premix solution. After the calcium-supplemented orange juice product is obtained, it is then filled into cans, cartons, bottles or other appropriate packaging. In the case of calcium-supplemented orange juice concentrates, these products are typically frozen after being filled into cans.

Inclusion of calcium sulfate and calcium chloride in calcium-supplemented fruit juice beverages helps in reducing or preventing the precipitation of calcium salts (especially calcium citrate) on equipment surfaces during pasteurization or sterilization. It has been surprisingly found that as a calcium-containing fruit juice stream passes through pasteurization or sterilization equipment, the calcium salts present in the juice stream precipitate out at the high temperatures (e.g., from about 200° F to about 300° F) required for pasteurization or sterilization. These precipitated calcium salts typically deposit on the equipment surface of the pasteurizer or sterilizer and eventually flake off into the finished product stream. Pasteurization or sterilization equipment in which such precipitation problems can occur include ultra-high temperature direct stream infusion sterilizers such as the Crepaco Ultratherm Infusion Sterilizer.

The concentrated orange juice, orange juice aroma and flavor volatiles, pulp and peel oils used in the method of the present invention can be obtained from standard orange juice processing. See Nagy et al., Citrus Science and Technology, Volume 2, (AVI Publishing Co. 1977, pp. 177-252 (herein incorporated by reference)) for standard processing of oranges, grapefruit and tangerines. (See also Nelson et al, Fruit & Vegetable Juice Processing Technology (3rd Ed., AVI Publishing Co. 1977, pp. 180-505 (herein incorporated by reference)) for standard processing of noncitrus juices such as apple juice, grape juice, pineapple juice, etc. to provide sources of juice and juice materials for calcium-supplemented noncitrus juice products.) Fresh juice is extracted from the oranges, principally of the Valencia type. (The peel of the oranges is used in the present invention). Juices from different oranges are frequently blended to adjust the sugar to acid ratio of from about 8:1 to about 20:1 is considered acceptable. However, preferred sugar to acid ratios are typically from about 11:1 to about 15:1.

Juice is extracted from the oranges by using automatic juice squeezing machines, or less often by hand squeezing of the oranges. The type of equipment used to extract juice is not critical. The raw juice exiting from the squeezing device contains pulp, rag and seeds. The pulp and seed are separated from the juice and pulp in a finisher. The juice is then typically separated into a pulp portion and a serum portion. (The pulp portion can be used as a source of pulp in the method of the present invention).

The serum portion can be concentrated by a variety of techniques which typically include evaporative concentration or freeze concentration. In evaporative concentration, the serum portion of the juice is passed through an evaporator (e.g. falling film or temperature accelerated time evaporator (TASTE) type). Water vapor, as well as the aroma and flavor volatiles, are stripped from the juice. These stripped volatiles are then centrifuged to provide an upper layer (essence oils) and a lower layer (aqueous essence). (A portion of these essence oils and aqueous essence are typically used as the source of orange juice aroma and flavor volatiles for the method of the present invention). The remaining stripped juice is then concentrated in the evaporator (by heat) to the appropriate amount of solids as measured by the sugar content of the concentrated juice. This concentrated juice can be used in the method of the present invention.

Most concentrated orange juices are obtained by evaporative concentration. However, freeze concentration can also be used to obtain concentrated orange juice useful in the method of the present invention. Freeze concentration typically involves passing the serum portion of the juice through a scraped wall heat

exchanger to form substantially pure ice crystals which are then separated from the concentrated juice. A preferred freeze concentration method is disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,74,865 to Strobel, issued February 22, 1983, which is incorporated by reference. Unlike evaporative concentration, concentrated orange juice obtained by freeze concentration typically contains the aromatic flavor volatiles as well.

2. Other Beverages and Beverage Concentrates

The other beverages and concentrates of the present invention are formulated by standard beverage formulation techniques. Although noncarbonated beverages are within the scope of the present invention, particular emphasis is given to the making of carbonated beverages. It should be understood, however, that the following description is not limited to carbonated beverage making techniques, when appropriately modified, are also applicable to noncarbonated beverages. Also, while the following description is directed to diet beverages containing noncaloric sweeteners can also be prepared by appropriate modification.

In making a sugar-sweetened carbonated beverage, a beverage concentrate typically contains the emulsified or water-soluble flavors, emulsion stabilizing agents, preservatives. After the concentrate is formed, sugar and water are then added to make a beverage syrup. This beverage syrup is then mixed with an appropriate quantity of water to form the finished beverage. The weight ratio of water: syrup is from about 2:1 (3X syrup) to about 4:1 (5X syrup). Carbon dioxide is introduced either into the water mixed with the beverage syrup or into the drinkable beverage to achieve carbonation. The carbonated beverage can then be placed in a container such as a bottle or can and sealed. See L. F. Green, Developments in Soft Drinks Technology, Vol. 1, (Applied Science Publishers, 1978), pp. 102-107 (herein incorporated by reference), for a further description of beverage making, including the process for carbonation.

The amount of carbon dioxide introduced into the beverage system used and the amount of carbonation desired. Usual carbonated beverages of the present invention contain from about 1.0 to about 4.5 volumes of carbon dioxide. Preferred carbonated beverages contain from about 2 to about 3.5 volumes of carbon dioxide.

The calcium source(s) (e.g. calcium carbonate, calcium citrate, calcium phosphate, calcium chloride) and the acids (e.g., citric, malic, and phosphoric) can be added at various points in this beverage concentrate-beverage making process. The calcium source and acids are preferably added at the same point in this process, but can also be added at different points. Usually, the calcium source and acids are included during preparation of the beverage concentrate or during preparation of the beverage syrup.

Specific Embodiments of Beverages, Beverage Concentrates and Methods for Making Same According to the Present Invention

The following are specific embodiments of beverages, beverage concentrates and methods for making same in accordance with the present invention:

Embodiment 1

A cola-flavored beverage syrup was prepared from the following ingredients:

Ingredient	Amount
Water	242
Calcium hydroxide	0.15
Calcium chloride dihydrate	0.45
Calcium sulfate dihydrate	1.0
Phosphoric acid (85%)	0.1
High fructose corn syrup 55	22.4
Cola flavor and caramel	2
Total	480

The ingredients were mixed together to form the syrup. The syrup was added to 10 oz. bottles (90 g. of syrup in each bottle). The bottles were then cooled to 34° F. Carbonated water (4.95 volumes CO₂) was added to make a final volume in each bottle of 10 oz.

Embodiment 2

A lemon/lime-flavored beverage was prepared from the following ingredients:

Ingredient	Amount
Water	125
Calcium carbonate	
Calcium sulfate	
Calcium chloride dihydrate	
Citric acid (anhydrous)	
High fructose corn syrup 55	21.4
Total	150

The above ingredients were mixed together and then 1.67 ml of lemon/lime flavor and 2.4 ml of color were added and mixed. The beverage was added to 16 oz. bottles (about 500 g. in each bottle). The bottles were carbonated to 3.5 volumes CO₂. The beverage had a pH of 3.56.

Embodiment 3

The lemon/lime-flavored beverage was prepared from the following ingredients:

Ingredient	Amount
Water	
Calcium hydroxide	
Calcium chloride dihydrate	
Calcium sulfate	
Citric acid (anhydrous)	
Malic acid	
High fructose corn syrup 55	15
Total	100

The above ingredients were mixed together and then added to 16 oz. bottles (about 500 g. in each bottle). To each bottle was added 0.53 ml of lemon/lime flavor and 0.7 ml of color. The bottles were then carbonated to 3.0 volumes CO₂.

For Embodiments 1 to 3, the level of calcium, total acids and chloride in the beverage is shown in the following table:

Embodiment	Calcium (%)	Total Acids (%)	Chloride (%)
1	0.055	0.111	0.024
2	0.060	0.25	0.027
3	0.056	0.192	0.024

Embodiment 4

An acid/calcium mixture comprising 275 lbs. of tap water, 5.9 lbs. of calcium hydroxide and 2.89 lbs. of calcium sulfate half hydrate was prepared in a stainless steel tank. In a separate blending tank, 450 lbs. of 65° Brix orange juice concentrate was blended with 1400 lbs. of water. The acid/calcium mixture was added to the large blending tank containing diluted concentrate. More water was then added to provide a juice solids content of 14° Brix. The calcium-containing juice mixture (2250 lbs.) was pasteurized using a Crepaco Ultratherm Infusion Heater at a temperature of 230°F and at a rate of 22 lbs. of juice per minute. The residence time was 2 to 4 seconds in the Infusion Heater. The pH of pasteurized juice was 3.85. The inside wall of the Infusion Heater was inspected after the run. No precipitate or deposit of calcium salt was observed.

In a separate control run, an acid/calcium mixture comprising 5 lbs. of water, 12.75 lbs. of malic acid, 0.74 lbs. of citric acid and 7.38 lbs. of calcium hydroxide was added to the same orange juice concentrate. The diluted juice/acid/calcium mixture was pasteurized using the same Infusion Heater under the same processing conditions. The final pH of pasteurized juice was determined to be 4.15. Severe deposits of calcium salt was noticed inside the Infusion Heater after the run.

Both runs were prepared to deliver 300 mg. of calcium per 6 oz. of juice.

Embodiment 5

An acid premix containing 275 lbs. of water, 7.6 lbs. of malic acid, 0.39 lbs. of citric acid, 5.2 lbs. of calcium hydroxide, 2.96 lbs. of calcium chloride dihydrate and 1.46 lbs. of calcium sulfate (anhydrous) was blended into a batch of orange juice as in Embodiment 4. The acid/calcium/juice mixture was pasteurized using a Crepaco Ultratherm Infusion Heater in the same manner as Embodiment 4. The final pH of the product was determined to be 3.65. No precipitate or deposit was observed inside the Infusion Heater after the run. This formula also delivered 300 mg. of calcium per 6 oz. of juice.

Embodiment 6

An acid/calcium mixture comprising 300 lbs. of distilled water, 0.2 lbs. of malic acid, 0.59 lbs. of citric acid, 5.9 lbs. of calcium hydroxide, 4.25 lbs. of calcium gluconate and 1.46 lbs. of calcium sulfate one half hydrate was blended into a batch of orange juice as in Embodiment 4. Sufficient water was then added to provide a juice solids content of 14.2° Brix. The acid/calcium/juice mixture was then pasteurized as in Embodiment 4. The final pH of this product was 3.70. No precipitate or deposit was observed inside the Infusion Heater after the run. The product delivered 300 mg. of calcium per 6 oz. of juice. The flavor of the pasteurized juice was judged to be equal to a regular orange juice by untrained panelists.

Claims

1. A calcium-supplemented beverage, which comprises:
 - (a) from 0.05% to 0.15% by weight solubilized calcium, preferably from 0.055% to 0.09% by weight;
 - 5 (b) from 0.07% to 1% by weight of an edible acid component, preferably said acid component comprises citric acid, malic acid, phosphoric acid or mixtures thereof;
 - (c) from 0.02% to 0.14% by weight sulfate;
 - (d) up to 0.05% by weight chloride;
 - (e) the amount of sulfate and chloride combined being no more than 0.10% by weight, preferably no more than 0.10%;
 - (f) at least 0.5% of a flavor component; and
 - (g) from 1% to 14% sweetener, selected from sugar, high fructose syrup, a non-caloric sweetener, preferably aspartame, and mixtures thereof.
2. The beverage of Claim 1 which is carbonated with from 1.5 to 4.5 volumes of carbon dioxide,
- 15 3. The carbonated beverage of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said acid component comprises from 5% to 15% fruit juice by weight of the beverage.
4. A beverage concentrate in liquid form for preparing a drinkable beverage, which comprises:
 - (a) from 0.15% to 0.75% by weight solubilized calcium, preferably from 0.16% to 0.45% by weight;
 - 20 (b) from 0.2% to 5% by weight of an edible acid component, preferably said acid component comprises citric acid, malic acid, phosphoric acid or mixtures thereof;
 - (c) from 0.06% to 0.7% by weight sulfate;
 - (d) up to 0.25% by weight chloride;
 - (e) the amount of said sulfate and said chloride combined being up to 0.7% by weight, preferably up to 0.5% by weight;
 - 25 (f) at least 0.5% flavor component; and
 - (g) from 30% to 70% water.
5. The concentrate of Claim 4 which further comprises from 10% to 70% by weight sugar, preferably high fructose corn syrup.
- 30 6. A calcium-supplemented single-strength fruit juice beverage which comprises:
 - (a) from 0.05% to 0.26% by weight solubilized calcium, preferably from 0.10% to 0.20% by weight;
 - (b) from 0.4% to 4% by weight of an edible acid component, preferably from 0.6% to 2% by weight;
 - (c) from 0.02% to 0.1% by weight sulfate;
 - (d) up to 0.07% by weight chloride;
 - 35 (e) the amount of sulfate and chloride combined being up to 0.12% by weight;
 - (f) from 45% to 90% fruit juice, preferably citrus juice, orange juice, fruit juice, or apple juice;
 - (g) a sugar content of from 2° to 16° Brix, preferably from 2° to 6° Brix.
7. The beverage of Claim 6 wherein said acid component comprises a mixture of citric acid, malic acid and gluconic acid.
- 40 8. A calcium-supplemented fruit juice concentrate, which comprises:
 - (a) from 0.15% to 1.30% by weight solubilized calcium, preferably from 0.3% to 1.0% by weight;
 - (b) from 1.2% to 20% by weight of an edible acid component, preferably from 1.8% to 10% by weight;
 - (c) from 0.06% to 0.5% by weight sulfate;
 - (d) up to 0.35% by weight chloride;
 - 45 (e) the amount of said sulfate and said chloride combined being up to 0.4% by weight;
 - (f) at least 45% fruit juice, preferably citrus juice; and
 - (g) a sugar content of from 6° to 75° Brix.
9. The concentrate of Claim 8 which has been frozen and wherein said citrus juice is orange juice and comprises at least 95% of the concentrate.
- 50 10. The concentrate of Claim 8 wherein said orange juice comprises from 50% to 90% of the concentrate.



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 88 20 1562

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim
X	EP-A-0 227 174 (PROCTER & GAMBLE CO.) * page 11, embodiment 5; claims 1-10 *	5,9
X,P	EP-A-0 244 903 (PROCTER & GAMBLE CO.) * page 11, embodiment 1; claims 1-19 *	5,9
A	US-A-3 657 424 (C.O. AKTINS et al.) * claims 1-9 *	4
D,A	US-A-4 448 770 (E.E. EPTING) * abstract *	
D,A	US-A-4 322 407 (S.Y. KO) * claims 1-9 *	

CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.3)
A 23 L 2/26

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL.3)
A 23 L 2/00

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
BERLIN	27-10-1988	SCHULTZE D

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS	Legend	Remarks
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or prior art	Underlying the invention
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	E : earlier patent or published on, or	application
A : technological background	D : document of the prior art	for reasons
: non-written disclosure	L : document of the prior art	
P : intermediate document	& : member of the patent family, corresponding	

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